

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL TRIESTE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0343
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR IT YO

SUBJECT: SPEECH BY MSI NATIONAL SECRETARY ALMIRANTE IN TRIESTE.

1. SUMMARY. REMARKS IN APRIL 18 SPEECH IN TRIESTE BY MSI NATIONAL SECRETARY ALMIRANTE DEALING WITH ZONE B DISPUTE AND SLOVENIAN MINORITY IN TRIESTE HAVE ELICITED STRONG PROTESTS FROM LOCAL SLOVENIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND FROM A NUMBER OF POLITICAL PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

2. SCHEDULED MSI RALLY FEATURING MSI NATIONAL SECRETARY ALMIRANTE TOOK PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENT EVENING OF APRIL 18. ATTENDANCE ESTIMATED AT 1,500 . SMALL GROUP OF HECKLERS KEPT WELL AWAY FROM MAIN BODY OF RALLY BY POLICE. FIRST HALF OF ALMIRANTE 40 MINUTE SPEECH DEVOTED TO ZONE B DISPUTE ON WHICH ALMIRANTE REITERATED PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED MSI POSITIONS (PRAISE FOR ""FIRM"" ATTITUDE RUMOR GOVERNMENT, FOR WHICH MSI GIVEN LARGE SHARE OF CREDIT: PLEDGE THAT MSI TAKES ""RESPONSIBLE"" POSITION ON DISPUTE AND WISHES TO AVOID PROVOCATORY ACTS). YUGOSLAV ACTIONS ASCRIBED BY ALMIRANTE TO INTERNAL PROBLEMS, AND DANGER OF SOVIET INTERVENTION IN YUGOSLAVIA MENTIONED. IN HIS REMARKS ON DIVORCE REFERENDUM ALMIRANTE STATED THAT VOTES FOR DIVORCE WOULD STRENGTHEN ""TITOIST AND SOVIET CLAIMS"" IN ZONE B DISPUTE.

3. AT CONCLUSION OF HIS REMARKS ON ZONE B ALMIRANTE RAISED ISSUE OF ALLEGED ""SLOVENIANIZATION"" OF TRIESTE. HE ARGUED THAT UNDER

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AEGIS OF CENTER-LEFT NUMBERS OF SLOVENES HAD ENTERED LOCAL

PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS AND THAT THIS CONSTITUTED AN ""INTERNAL THREAT"". ALMIRANTE THEN CALLED, ACCORDING TO ACCOUNT PUBLISHED IN PRIMORSKI DNEVNIK, FOR ""LIQUIDATION OF BEARERS OF SLOVENIAN GERM"".

4. LATTER REMARKS (WHICH WERE NOT INCLUDED IN ACCOUNTS OF SPEECH PUBLISHED IN ITALIAN LANGUAGE PRESS) HAVE ELICITED STRONG PROTESTS FROM SLOVENIAN ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS FROM LOCAL DC, PSI AND PCI PARTY ORGANIZATIONS. SLOVENIAN STATEMENTS ACCUSE ALMIRANTE OF ADVOCATING EXTERMINATION OF SLOVENIAN COMMUNITY IN ITALY AND CALL ON AUTHORITIES TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST MSI. FACT THAT ""INCITEMENT OF NATIONAL AND RACIAL HATRED"" FORBIDDEN UNDER ANNEX II OF LONDON MEMORANDUM IS NOTED. SECRETARY OF UNION OF SLOVENES HAS DIRECTED PARTY REPRESENTITIVES TO PRESS MATTER IN MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL COUNCILS. OTHER PARTIES STATEMENTS ALSO DENOUNCE ALMIRANTE REMARKS, WITHOUT CALLING FOR SPECIFIC LEGAL ACTION AGAINST MSI. DC STATEMENT NOTES COMMITMENT EXPRESSED IN APRIL 9 CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO CONTINUE ""ON PATH OF PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION"" AND PREDICTS THAT ALMIRANTE S ATTEMPT TO DISTURB ""CLIMATE OF COMPOSURE"" IN TRIESTE WILL FAIL. ATTACK ON SLOVENE MINORITY TERMED ""GRAVE AND IRRESPONSIBLE".RACKMALES

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